

22 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with William Woodruff, Counsel,
Senate Appropriations Committee

This afternoon I reviewed with Mr. Woodruff the details of certain Reserve withdrawals of which we were formally advising the Chairman. Woodruff proceeded to comment, in strict confidence, on some of the problems which he foresaw, and noted the following:

a. Woodruff may have some difficulty in getting Chairman Ellender to accept his explanations of these withdrawals; Ellender may insist that the Director himself come over to explain them.

b. Woodruff's own position on the Committee staff is uncertain. Although Ellender has promoted him and most of his colleagues, Woodruff has been given to clearly understand that he is not to enjoy the same authority he did under Chairman Russell. Ellender is obviously determined to make all decisions himself, and has remarked to certain people in the Pentagon that he doesn't want a substantive staff, only "clerks" to handle routine matters.

c. Ellender has "the knife out" for the Pentagon, and we would be well advised not to appear to support the Pentagon in any dealings we have with Ellender. In fact, Woodruff himself is resigning his Reserve commission lest Ellender interpret his participation in Reserve activities as reflecting a loyalty to the military.

d. Woodruff has been quite impressed with Ellender's mental capacity, remarking that when he takes time to study a complex problem he can master it completely. However, Woodruff says that, because he insists on doing everything himself, certain problems inevitably are neglected and sooner or later the "roof will fall in." Woodruff thinks it is likely this will happen in connection with a DOD matter rather than an Agency problem.

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